

S E C R E T

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FIELD INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY: USSR (Tadzhik SSR)

REPORT

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SUBJECT: Thefts and Murders at Stalinabad

DATE

DATE OF REPORT: 18 September 1956 25X1

REFERENCE: This is UNEVALUATED Information

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Attached is a report on thefts and murders at Stalinabad.

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ATTACHMENT D ☐

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1. [redacted] several gangs 25X1
of thieves [redacted] operated in Stalinabad and adjacent areas, i.e., Black Cat, Samarkand
Rogues, Ursats Rogues, Saratov Curmudgeons. [redacted]
[redacted] on several occasions in Stalinabad, 25X1
when apartments were looted, a sign with "Black Cat" written on it was put on the door.
The inhabitants said that this gang called itself the Black Cat because its members
gained entrance into a house by meowing at the door. Whereupon, the occupants, think-
ing a cat was at the door, would open it.
2. There was a gang leader in the vicinity of Stalinabad who was called "Memoy". (Mute)
He actually was a mute. His brother worked in the militia; therefore, it was said
that he feared no one. In 1954 "Memoy" was at a dance in the House of Culture in
Kurgan-Tyube. There he approached a girl dancing with an officer and tried to take
the girl away. The officer objected. Memoy then pulled out a knife and stabbed the
officer. Memoy was arrested but in a few months he was released. (N38-30, E 68-45)
3. [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] a robbery in Stalinabad in 1954. A young office girl
was returning home from work at night. A militia-man approached her, accosted her with
a revolver and ordered her to undress. She stripped to her slip, but tearfully begged
for the return of her passport. The militiaman returned this to her and she ran home.
Upon arriving home she discovered that the passport was not hers, and that the man had
given her his passport by mistake. The next morning she went to the militia. The man
was arrested and it was discovered that he was not a member of the militia. 25X1
4. [redacted]
5. According to rumor, thieves bribed the militia in order that the latter would not aid
the victims of bandits. Afterwards the thieves would share their spoils with the
militia.
6. In 1948 an old man and an old woman were tried before an open court in Stalinabad.
They lived in a house not far from the railway station and had been inviting newly-
arrived people to spend the night with them. They killed these people, cooked their
flesh, made meat pies from their flesh and sold the pies at the market. They had been
engaged in this "trade" since 1936. The story was made known in this way: In 1948
two women, who were friends, came to Stalinabad. One of them had a son. This woman
and her son stayed with the old couple mentioned above, while her friend found a room
elsewhere. The following day, the latter came to the old couple's house and inquired
about her friend. The boy told her that he did not know where his mother was. The
old couple said she had left and they did not know when she would return. The woman's
friend tried during the next few days to find her at home, but to no avail. Then the
boy disappeared. After this the friend went to the militia and informed them of the
disappearance of her friend and friend's son. The militia searched the old couple's
house and found half of a woman's torso and the body of the boy in the cellar. The
old couple was arrested. The police continued to search the premises, and found human
bones in the ground around the house. The old couple had a dog and four pigs. The
police gave the dog some pork. The dog rejected it. They offered the dog human flesh,
and the dog ate it greedily. The pigs reacted the same way. At the trial the public
clamored to have them hung. [redacted] 25X1
7. In 1954-55 incidents of robbery and burglary diminished. As before, there were many
pick-pockets, but nothing more was heard of criminal gangs. Big-time thieves operated
alone.

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